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OPI Report

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
NANCY KEENAN SUPERINTENDENT

April 1990 Montana Office of Public Instruction

I am pleased to announce my recent appointment of Sara L. Young to the Montana High School Association Board of Control. This appointment is one of two "public member" appointments approved by the MHSA at its January 1990 meeting. The Governor will make the other appointment.

Sara is the personnel director for Bozeman Public Schools. She has experience in employee relations with the Western Energy Company, and she has experience in school administration as an assistant school superintendent and a district superintendent. Her skills in working with people of a variety of interests and opinions will serve her well on the MHSA board.

Sara is an active supporter of Montana high school activities, having missed only two Class B Southeastern Divisional boys' basketball tournaments in the past 32 years. Both her daughter and son are athletes from Montana schools. Sara will begin her four-year appointment to the MHSA board on July 1, 1990, when she will become the second woman and first Native American member of the board.

The Office of Public Instruction and the MHSA have made important progress toward improving sports equity in Montana Schools. There is still much to do, and I know Sara's commitment to quality and equitable education will be an important contribution to our continuing efforts.

Nancy Keenan

CHANGES IN REGULATIONS GOVERNING PIR DAYS

On March 22, 1990, the Montana Board of Public Education approved revisions to the Administrative Rules of Montana governing pupil instruction related (PIR) days for foundation program calculations. These revisions were designed primarily to update the regulations in order to match actual practices.

The revisions incorporate 1989 legislative amendments to 20-1-304 and 20-4-304, MCA. As amended, these laws now allow teachers to attend the annual state teachers' association session in October, or perform other duties as may be described by the local trustees, without a loss of salary. They also require that school districts close schools for these annual October sessions. The amendments take effect July 1, 1990.

The revised regulations allow school districts to schedule a maximum of seven PIR days for the year's foundation program. At least three of those days must be used for instructional and professional development purposes or other appropriate inservice training. PIR days may be used for such activities as staff orientation, staff professional development programs for the purpose of improving instruction, parent-teacher conferences, and post-school record day.

The revised regulations further require that each professional staff member participate in at least six hours of scheduled activities for each approved PIR day. Professional development time may be divided into two-hour increments. The regulations also allow for six-hour parent-teacher conferences (PIR days), each of which may be divided into two segments over two days.

The Office of Public Instruction mailed 1990-91 PIR day application packets to school districts on April 6, 1990. Because of the timing of the Board of Education's decision to adopt the new revisions, the original deadlines for submitting PIR applications have been extended. Applications should be submitted to county superintendents by April 27, 1990. The county superintendents will then submit the original application to OPI by May 18, 1990.

If you have any questions, please call OPI's accreditation department at 444-3128.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS

Teacher of the Year applications will be available April 30, 1990. Contact Marlene Wallis at OPI (444-3693).

MONTANA PRINCIPAL CHOSEN FOR JAPAN PROGRAM

Judy Evans, Principal at Ponderosa Elementary in Billings, is one of 24 U.S. and Canadian educators selected to observe contemporary Japanese life as guests of the Keizai

Koho Center—the Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs.

Evans will visit Japan for 16 days this summer. She will have opportunities to visit schools, meet with educators and other leaders, observe urban and rural life styles, experience Japan's cultural traditions, and stay with a Japanese family.

Evans reports that she and her faculty believe in applying for as many enrichment opportunities as possible. This has been an especially successful year, as one of the Ponderosa teachers also received a fellowship to study at NASA this summer.

NEW OPI MOTORCYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Jim Bernet recently joined the Office of Public Instruction staff as the Motorcycle Safety Education Specialist. Jim comes to OPI from the Department of Labor and Industry, where he spent 10 years as a manager/planner. His enthusiasm for motorcycle education and safety, along with his experience managing people and programs, will provide the leadership needed to establish the motorcycle safety program statewide.

Jim currently is developing a system of permanent training sites around the state to provide training for novice and experienced riders.

NINTH ANNUAL LAW-RELATED EDUCATION INSTITUTE

The Office of Public Instruction (under grants from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice) and the Montana Law Foundation will sponsor the Ninth Annual Law-Related Education Institute in Helena from July 30-August 3, 1990. The Institute is an innovative, unique experience for educators (grades K-12) interested in integrating concepts of law and democracy into classroom study. The Institute helps educators teach students how to be active participants in a constitutional democracy. The ultimate aim of the Institute is preventing juvenile delinquency.

Graduate credit (2) is available, and the Institute will pay for tuition, materials, lodging, and meals. Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. The Office of Public Instruction will send applications to each school. Applications must be returned to OPI by June 1, 1990. For more information, contact Linda Brandon at OPI, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620 (444-4402).

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 6-12, 1990 is Teacher Appreciation Week. According to the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA), schools across the nation will recognize teachers and their contributions with special celebrations during this week. For information, contact NSPRA, 1501 Lee Highway, Suite 201, Arlington, VA 22209 (703-528-5840).

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The Montana State Library reminds us that National Library Week, April 22-28, 1990, is a good time to thank school librarians for their many contributions to education!

MONTANA BARRIER AWARENESS WEEK

April 30 to May 4, 1990 is Montana Barrier Awareness Week, according to the Montana Independent Living Project. Barrier Awareness Week is a statewide campaign designed to make the public more aware of barriers to the disabled population within our state, our communities, our schools, and our places of business.

These barriers include architectural, attitudinal, and communication barriers. Eliminating barriers is something with which everyone can help. Changing archaic attitudes about people with disabilities is basic to this effort. To that end, the Montana Independent Living Project will place special emphasis on teaching primary school children about the needs and abilities of people with disabilities.

For more information, contact Kathy Collins, Montana Independent Living Project, 38 South Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601 (442-5755).

PROTECTING CREATIVE PROPERTY

Today's gifted and talented students are the Nobel laureates of the future. They depend on educators to help stimulate their creativity and teach them how to protect their ideas.

Jean Bishop, head of public services and patent librarian at the Montana Tech Library, has designed an intensive, hands-on, short course to acquaint educators with the processes that protect intellectual property, including patents, trademarks, copyright law, and unfair competition laws. The workshop will take place August 17-18, 1990, at the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology (Montana Tech) in Butte. For information, contact Jean Bishop, Montana Tech Library, Butte, MT 59701 (496-4222).

PALEO SCHOOL

The east slope of the Rocky Mountains has yielded

many fossil specimens that have become world-famous keys to the secrets of paleontology. This summer, the Old Trail Museum of Choteau and the College of Great Falls will offer several nine-day paleontology sessions for educators and others. Participants will work directly with the people responsible for the discovery of baby dinosaurs in the Choteau area.

Enrollment is limited, and applicants will be accepted on a first-come/first-served basis. The sessions will begin June 11, 1990, with new sessions beginning every other Monday. Last session begins August 6. For information, contact John Brandvold, Old Trail Museum, P.O. Box 919, Choteau, MT 59422 (469-2314).

ASBESTOS REGULATIONS

Asbestos is a very real issue for educators. Regulations governing the proper handling of asbestos and the attendant liabilities are far-reaching. Copies of Montana regulations pertaining to asbestos are available from the state Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. The regulations deal with such issues as evaluating asbestos hazards in schools and accreditation of asbestos inspectors. For more information, contact Adrian Howe, Occupational Health Bureau, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Cogswell Building, Helena, MT 59620.

MONTANA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL BELL AWARD

To honor an exemplary teacher of Montana history, news stations KRTV, Great Falls; KXLF, Butte; and KPAX, Missoula are sponsoring the annual Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award.

On Montana's Statehood Centennial Day, November 8, 1989, the privately donated Montana Statehood Centennial Bell was permanently installed in the state capitol and was rung at 10:40 a.m., the time Montana officially became a state in 1889. The award program seeks to make an annual event of this historic minute by honoring a Montana teacher who has made a significant contribution to his/her students' appreciation of Montana history.

Montana teachers grades 5-8 are eligible to enter. Each applicant should submit a typed, two-page, double-spaced essay describing his/her approach to and experiences in teaching Montana history during the 1989-1990 school year. Three letters of support from an administrator; a parent; and/or a colleague, student, or friend are to be included.

The winning teacher and class will travel to Helena to ring the Montana Statehood Centennial Bell on Statehood Day, November 8, 1990, at 10:40 a.m. The teacher and class will take an escorted tour of the state capitol and meet with Governor Stephens and Superintendent of Public Instruction Nancy Keenan. The teacher will receive a bell-shaped plaque and $100 with which to purchase Montana history books for his/her school library. Award sponsors will provide reimbursement for lunch and bus mileage to and from Helena.

Entries should be postmarked by October 1, 1990 and sent to Nancy Coopersmith, Office of Public Instruction, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620. The winner will be announced by October 25, 1990. For further information, contact Norma Ashby, 3233 3rd Ave. South, Great Falls, MT 59405 (453-7078).

STUDENT CONTESTS

American Statistics Project Competition. Sponsored by the American Statistical Association, the Statistics Project Competition offers an opportunity for students to work together in teams to discover the scope and applicability of techniques in statistics; to apply these techniques in what might be an unfamiliar context; and to develop a critical appreciation of the logical progression from research questions to research conclusions. A team must consist of two or more students.

One team prize of $300 will be given in each of the following categories: grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10-12. A special prize of $100 will be awarded to the team submitting the statistics project that makes the best use of a computer. All entries must be postmarked by May 15, 1990.

For information, contact Center for Statistical Education, American Statistical Association, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402, (703-684-1221).

Poster Competition. The American Statistics Poster Competition encourages students to discover the usefulness of statistics in displaying data that occur in their everyday lives. This competition challenges students to use their creative skills to manifest the maxim that "a picture is worth a thousand words."

All students in grades K-12 are eligible. Cash prizes will be awarded. For information, contact Jerry Moreno, Department of Math and Computer Science, John Carroll University, University Heights, OH 44118. Entries must be postmarked by May 15, 1990.

STUDY IN CHINA AND RUSSIA

The International Education Center will sponsor its fourth annual fellowship program for educators and students to the People's Republic of China and to the Soviet Union during the summer of 1990.

For information, contact IEC Newsletter Editor; International Education Center, Ltd; Bowling Green Station, Box 843; New York, NY 10274 (212-747-1755).

MISSING CHILDREN INFORMATION

Please compare this list with your roster of students. If you identify a name or description, contact the Montana Missing Children Clearinghouse at 444-3817 or toll free 1-800-332-6617. Also, if you have a transfer student without school records or a new student without proof of identity as required by MCA 44-2-511, please contact the Montana Clearinghouse. This list is current as of MARCH 22, 1990.

NAME	SEX	RACE	DOB	AGE	HT/WT	HAIR	EYES	STATION
ANDERSON, AARON	M	W	02/18/82	8	304/36	BLN	BLU	DEPT OF JUSTICE
BARGENQUAST, AMBER	F	W	12/21/78	12	404/165	RED	BLU	DEPT OF JUSTICE
BOWMAN, CYRUS	M	W	02/02/74	16	602/170	BLN	BLU	KALISPELL, MT
CLELAND, JENNEL	F	W	04/16/74	16	501/120	BLN	GRN	BUTTE, MT
DAY, CHRIS DAN	M	W	10/30/80	9	400/70	BRO	BLU	DEPT OF JUSTICE
DWYER, SHELBY	F	W	06/25/72	17	504/115	BLN	XXX	BILLINGS, MT
ERICKSON, RACHEL	F	W	09/04/75	14	504/110	BLN	BRO	ANACONDA, MT
FELIPE, ANGELINA	F	W	01/27/80	10	408/70	BLK	BRO	DEPT OF JUSTICE
HANDZLIK, GRANT	M	W	04/29/75	14	503/110	BRO	HAZ	THOMPSON FALLS
KROUSE, SHERILYN	F	W	07/19/75	14	502/100	BLN	BLU	DEPT OF JUSTICE
LAMERE, KELLY	F	W	03/24/74	16	505/120	BRO	BRO	BUTTE, MT
LEARN, SHANE	M	W	08/12/72	17	510/127	BLN	BLU	POLSON, MT
MADSEN, NATHAN L	M	W	07/24/80	10	406/68	BRO	BRO	DEPT OF JUSTICE
MCBRIDE, SAMANTHA	F	W	10/07/83	6	304/50	BLN	BLU	DEPT OF JUSTICE
MOODY, HEIDI	F	W	03/20/74	16	504/120	BRO	BRO	BOZEMAN, MT
NEFF, BILLIE M	F	W	06/06/79	10	400/55	BRO	BLU	DEPT OF JUSTICE
OLSSON, ANNA	F	W	01/25/84	5	400/61	XXX	XXX	DEPT OF JUSTICE
OWENS, JEANNIE	F	W	03/14/73	17	504/110	BRO	XXX	WHITEFISH, MT
PALMER, HEATHER N	F	W	01/11/83	7	305/60	BLN	BLU	DEPT OF JUSTICE
POWELL, JESSE W	M	W	09/24/74	16	507/159	BLN	BRO	HAMILTON, MT
RAYNER, ANDREW F	M	W	02/23/72	17	601/160	BRO	BLU	CIRCLE, MT
RETANA, DUVAL	M	W	02/22/82	8	306/45	BLK	BRO	DEPT OF JUSTICE
RICH, SHANNON	F	W	09/17/73	17	502/142	BLN	BLK	THOMPSON FALLS
SHULTS, JOHN L	M	W	01/27/74	16	504/120	BRO	BLU	MILES CITY, MT
SNYDER, MELISSA	F	W	06/23/75	14	500/110	BLN	GRN	BUTTE, MT
SULLIVAN, DENNIS	M	W	10/03/73	16	508/130	RED	GRN	BUTTE, MT
VONDRA, GRACE K	F	W	12/24/74	16	505/ 120	BRO	BLU	RED LODGE, MT
WELDON, MICHAEL	M	W	09/10/73	16	504/135	BLN	BLU	HELENA, MT
WHITEWATER, GAVIS	M	W	09/05/83	6	306/40	BLN	BLU	POLSON, MT
WORDEN, KAIA	F	A	08/01/74	16	411/120	BRO	BRO	THOMPSON FALLS

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This document printed at government expense. Information on the cost of publication can be obtained by writing Department of Administration, Helena, Montana.